

Borough Monthly

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Sports personalities get behind campaign to tackle child sexual exploitation of boys

► find out more on page 3...



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

In this issue...

Bromham Road
Resurfacing Works

► see page 2

Partnership working
results in property closure

► see page 4

Triple P Parenting Offer

► see page 5

Black History Month 2018
at The Higgins Bedford

► see page 6

Bromham Road Resurfacing Works

Bromham Road is being currently being resurfaced over the course of 6 weeks, work started on 1st of October and is expected to finish on 9th of November.

The resurfacing works will cover Bromham Road from Dame Alice Street to just past Dynevor Road. There will also be some drainage repair and kerbing replacement carried out during the course of these works, as well as preparatory works for future traffic signal upgrades at the Union Street and Greyfriars junctions.

As many local residents and businesses know, Bromham Road is a major traffic route for Bedford. As such, the Council has planned these vital resurfacing and repair works to minimise disruption to road users, and people in the area.

The works will be carried out overnight from 8pm-6am, with the road re-opened during the day to minimise traffic disruptions. The works will also be carried out in three phases which will limit the amount of Bromham Road that will be closed at any one time and allow for suitable traffic diversions.

Phase One runs from Shakespeare Road to Conduit Road, Phase Two from Conduit Road to just past Greyfriars and Phase Three from that junction to Dame Alice Street.



Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport said *“We apologise for any inconvenience this road closure will cause; these are crucial works for this major road in and out of Bedford. Local residents and businesses will receive letters alerting them to the works, and on-site notice boards and signage placed on major junctions in the town will give advance notice of this closure.”*

Older Persons' Accommodation Strategy 2018-2023 Consultation

Bedford Borough Council wants your views on the draft Older People's Accommodation Strategy 2018-2023 which will cover the future housing needs of people over 65 years of age living in the Borough.

The draft Older Persons' Accommodation Strategy outlines the Council's aims in meeting the accommodation needs of older people in the Borough. There are different housing solutions required for different levels of

need. It is important to assess the future need for specialist accommodation for older persons to ensure that it can be met.

Cllr Colleen Atkins, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services said *“It is estimated that the older persons' population will increase by 90% over the next 20 years and this consultation is an invitation to residents in the Borough to comment on the draft and let us know your views.”*

All comments must reach the Council by 5pm on 29th October 2018. The online form can be found via this link www.bedford.gov.uk/opa

If you have any queries about the consultation or wish to discuss the Draft Older Persons' Accommodation Strategy further, please contact Tracey Barrett on 01234 718572 or email: tracey.barrett@bedford.gov.uk

Sports personalities get behind campaign to tackle child sexual exploitation of boys



Boys and young men can be the victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE), and this is the message that local sports personalities and role models in Bedfordshire are helping to push out over the next few weeks, as part of a new social media awareness campaign.

Bedfordshire Police, in partnership with Bedford Borough Council, Luton Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, are joining forces to tackle CSE in the new #ItHappensToBoysToo campaign which launches today (Monday).

CSE is a type of child abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It sees children and young people under 18 involved in exploitative situations, contexts or inappropriate relationships where the young person receives 'something', such as accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts or even affection, as a result of them performing, or being involved in, sexual activities.

The aim of the #ItHappensToBoysToo campaign is to continue to raise awareness of CSE, but to highlight that boys and young men can also find themselves as victims of this type of abuse. It also aims to increase the number of cases that are reported, as it is thought that boys often find it more difficult than girls to disclose what is happening to them.

The social media campaign sees Bedfordshire Police engaging with role models, such as police officers, fire fighters and paramedics, as well as local sports personalities, including Olympians Kriss Akabusi and Etienne Stott, who are getting behind the campaign and helping to raise awareness.

Detective Superintendent Nick Bellingham said: *"Children at risk of CSE are not exclusive to one gender; it happens to boys too. Any child can be exploited. Protecting vulnerable children is everyone's business, and we all need to be alert, to know what to look out for and where to go for advice, as well as having the confidence to report any acts of abuse safe in the knowledge that they will be acted on."*

"Partnership working is key to fighting this important issue so I'm pleased that Bedfordshire is uniting in this campaign to help put an end to the suffering of these children who are being exploited."

Cllr Shan Hunt Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care at Bedford Borough Council, said: *"We know that male victims are reluctant to discuss difficult issues and therefore less likely to report their abuse. It's important we recognise the signs of CSE and ensure that male victims are not overlooked."*

Luton Council's Director of People Amanda Lewis, said: *"Across Bedfordshire we are committed to working together in tackling CSE and safeguarding children. We want to raise awareness and provide children with the confidence to be able to report their concerns, knowing that they will be acted upon."*

Sue Harrison, Central Bedfordshire Council's Director of Children's Services, said: *"We understand the difficulty in speaking out about CSE, especially for boys and young men and with the #ItHappensToBoysToo campaign, we want to reach out to anyone who may be a victim to let them know there is support available."*

Partnership working results in property closure

The community police team in Bedford has secured a three-month closure of a property in Rutland Road, after it was reported as a source of anti-social behaviour and drug criminality.

The officers, who worked closely with Bedford Borough Council, attended Luton Magistrates' Court hearing today (Friday) and were granted a full three month closure order.

PC Sharon Cummings, from the Bedford community team, said: *"We are dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour in Bedford. Thanks to support from the Bedford*

Borough Council's community safety team we've managed to secure a closure order.

"We are continuing to encourage our residents to come forward with information about drug crime and anti-social behaviour in their area, as each report helps us build a better intelligence picture of this kind of crime in Bedford."

Cllr Colleen Atkins, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services said *"The actions associated with this house have no place in Bedford Borough. This closure is a clear example of*

the strengths of our partnership working with the Police and local residents. We hope it sends out a clear message that crime and disorder will not be tolerated here."

If you wish to report crime and anti-social behaviour in your area you can do it online through the force's online reporting centre or by calling 101. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Nine weapons have been taken off the streets after a weapons sweep in Bedford

A meat cleaver, several knives and a baton were among the items recovered by community officers during the operation on Wednesday.

The work was undertaken as part of a joint week of action by the Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership in the Midland Road and Tavistock Street areas.

Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will be working in partnership with the local community to concentrate on ways to help improve the two areas, including activities and events that local residents and businesses can be involved in.

PC Emily Keech, from the Bedford community policing team, said: *"Taking all these weapons off the street is a positive result from the team and will help keep the public safe.*

"Our work to tackle knife crime is ongoing, and we continue to work with partners, schools and retailers. It's unacceptable to carry a knife and our message to people is simply: don't do it.

"This week of action is looking at various different ways we can improve this part of Bedford and the police are proud to play our part alongside partners and the community."

Cllr Colleen Atkins, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety at Bedford Borough Council said *"Taking these dangerous weapons off the streets is just one of the excellent results from the Week of Action. 'The Week' has been a fantastic opportunity to work with our partners and the local communities to hear their concerns and work together to find solutions to help improve the local environment. There have been other events across the two areas including community litter picks, help and advice surgeries and sessions about money, loan sharks and legal advice."*

Triple P Parenting Offer

Early Help's Triple P offer provides supportive action for families at every stage of their lives by providing a range of information and support through workshops and seminars for parents and carers with children and a new programme has just landed that will continue through to December.

Group Triple P is an 8-week programme for any parent or carer with a child aged 0-12 years old. We also offer an 8-week programme for parents and carers with teenagers offering advice and knowledge to improve communication and manage conflict. Our latest offer – Family Transitions Triple P is ideal for parents affected by separation or divorce and worried about the effect upon their children. The course focuses on how to cope positively with stress and provides skills to resolve conflicts with former partners in order to continue to co-parent effectively even though separated.

Triple P sessions and workshops will be delivered in schools and local community venues in Bedford from September to December. Anyone unable to follow the full 8-week programme can come along to the Triple P discussion groups held throughout September to December offering advice on topics such as 'Developing Good Bedtime Routines' to 'Getting Teenagers to Co-operate'.

Cllr Henry Vann, Portfolio Holder for Education said: *"Supporting families at every stage can make all the difference to the life chances of our children and young people. Our Early Help Team is there to support parents and equip them with the key skills to deal with the challenges they may face in raising children and young people by offering a flexible range of support options."*

"Since 2016, over 500 parents and carers have already attended a Triple P sessions, I would urge all parents and carers to get in touch if they need this support."

For further information on where and when Triple P is being delivered near you please contact triplep@bedford.gov.uk, or call 01234 276367. Or alternatively visit us at www.bedford.gov.uk/earlyhelp to download to the full programme.

Apple Day is back!



The always popular Apple Day is back at Bromham Mill on Sunday 21st October, from 11am- 4pm.

This celebration of country living is a great day out for the whole family with food, arts, crafts, and of course apples, with plenty of different stalls to browse!

There are also lots of activities and entertainment on offer with a wildlife display, a sheepdog and duck display featuring 'some of the best stunt ducks in the business', a magic show with illusions and circus skills, and live music.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said *"Apple Day is a fantastic local event, and with plenty to do, see and try it's sure to be a great day out for all."*

Entry into Apple Day is £5 for adults and £3 for children. Bromham Park is managing and operating a car park at the cost of £3 per car, adjacent to the Bromham Mill and Gallery site.

Do you own an Empty Property?



You could be:

- Receiving rents;
- Selling it for a handy lump sum;
- Cutting your council tax bill;
- Reducing the risk of squatting & damage.

Bedford Borough Council is using Compulsory Purchase Powers to tackle long-term empty properties.

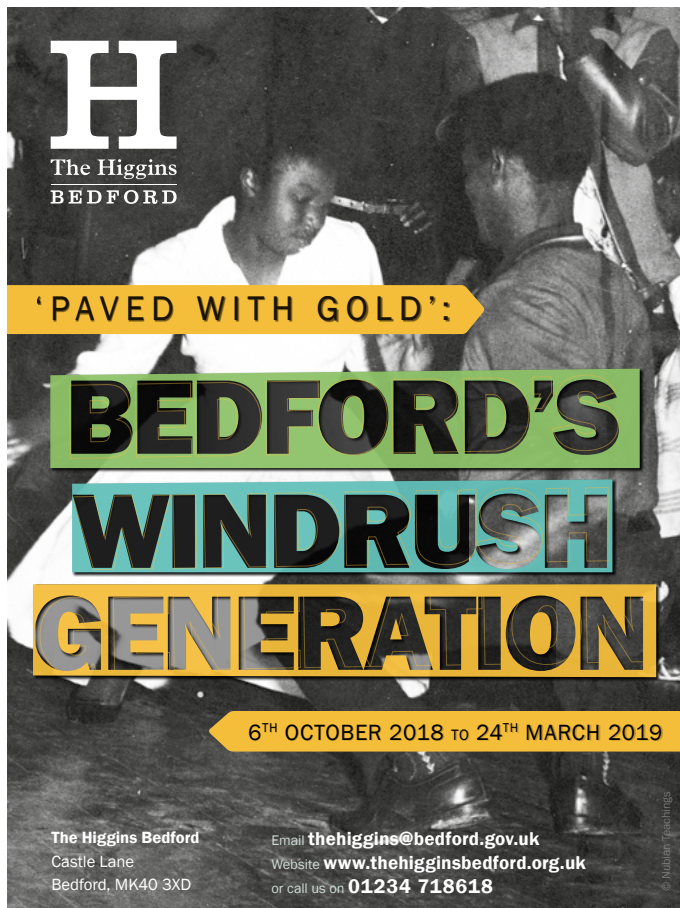


To discuss your options please contact us on:

☎ **01234 718581 or 718585**

@ **housing.strategy@bedford.gov.uk**

Black History Month 2018 at The Higgins Bedford



October's half term activities are based on African and Caribbean history and culture with craft workshops.

On Tuesday 23rd October, there will be an Adinkra Art workshop with Nubian Teachings; creating spectacular works of arts based on Adinkra visual symbols. Cost- £2.70 per child.

Wednesday 24th October will see a mosaic tiles workshop with Qemamu Mosaics, joining local artist Dionne Ible in creating a Qemamu Mosaic tile to take home. Cost- £5 per child.

On Friday 26th October the 'Future Self' workshop invites children to join local artist Kemi Onabule in exploring the exhibition, 'Paved with Gold': Bedford's Windrush Generation. Children will be creating mixed media self-portraits inspired by personal hopes and ambitions. Cost- £2.70 per child.

These workshop will all take place at 11am, 12,30pm and 2pm, are aimed at children aged 5-13 and are unsuitable for children aged 3 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking in advance is recommended as places will go quickly. To book, please purchase a ticket at The Higgins Bedford reception desk. Bookings cannot be taken over the phone or online. Unfilled places will be offered on a first-come, first served basis on the day.

The Higgins Bedford will also be hosting a HipHop Workshop during half term; on Friday 26th October from 11am to 5pm. VyMy Dance & Fitness will be running this hip hop dance and art workshop, giving kids the chance to learn basic hiphop skills and the history behind the style. Cost- £25 for the day, with a 20% discount for siblings. This can be booked online at <http://www.vymydance.co.uk/holidaycourses.html>

CLlr Sarah-Jayne Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said "The opening of the 'Paved With Gold' exhibition is a unique opportunity to hear the stories of those who came to Britain as part of what has become known as the 'Windrush Generation'. With this and the return of the popular African and Caribbean Heritage Day and a number of half-term activities based around African and Caribbean history and culture, there are a lot of opportunities to learn about and be part of Black History Month 2018."

Celebrate this year's Black History Month at The Higgins Bedford with a fascinating exhibition, African and Caribbean Heritage Day, and crafty activities based on African and Caribbean history and culture over the half-term.

'Paved With Gold': Bedford's Windrush Generation Exhibition opens on 6th October 2018 and runs to 24th March 2019. This exhibition highlights the Windrush Generation's journey to Bedford, and will explore their legacy of endurance and determination through the challenges they faced and the contributions they made to the community. It is completely free to visit.

African and Caribbean Heritage Day returns to The Higgins Bedford on Saturday 27th October, with community stalls and the chance to hear local Windrush stories. There will be music, art and the opportunity to take part in activities and discussions exploring African and Caribbean history and culture.





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Teen Brain Matters Workshop for Parents

16th October 2018 - 18:30 to 20:30

Lincroft Academy, Station Road, Oakley MK43 7RE



Teen Brain Matters for Parents is a 2 hour workshop for parents developed by Professor John Coleman for Bedford Borough. This workshop brings together the latest understanding of neuroscience and development psychology. Throughout this workshop parents will learn more about the changes their children are going through in adolescent brain development to help them motivate and support young people in an emotionally healthy context.

Book Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/teen-brain-matters-for-parents-lincroft-academy-tickets-49811711169?ref=estwtickets-49811711169>

*“Right support **Right action** Right time”*

